

REMARKS

Claims 3-8, 11-16, 19-24, 27-32, 35-41, and 44-56 are pending in the above-identified application. Claims 3, 4, 6-8, 11, 12, 14-16, 19, 20, 22-24, 27, 28, 30-32, 35, 36, 38-41, 44, 45 and 47-56 were rejected. Claims 5, 13, 21, 29, 37, and 46 were objected to. With this Amendment, claims 3, 4, 6-8, 11, 12, 14-16, 19, 20, 22-24, 27, 28, 30-32, 35, 36, 38-41, 44, 45 and 47-56 have been cancelled. Accordingly, claims 5, 13, 21, 29, 37, and 46 are at issue.

I. Rejection of Claims

Claims 3, 4, 11-12, 19-20, 27-28, 35-36, 41, 44-45, and 50-56 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 102(e) as being anticipated by Takahashi et al. (U.S. Patent No. 6,347,185). Claims 6-7, 14-15, 22-23, 30-31, 38-39 and 47-48 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over Takahashi et al. in view of Pertrushin (U.S. Patent No. 6,151,571). Claims 8, 16, 24, 32, 40, and 49 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over Takahashi et al. in view of Wu et al. (U.S. Patent No. 6,006,179). Applicants respectfully traverse these rejections.

With this Amendment, 3, 4, 6-8, 11, 12, 14-16, 19, 20, 22-24, 27, 28, 30-32, 35, 36, 38-41, 44, 45 and 47-56 were cancelled. Accordingly, Applicants respectfully request withdrawal of these rejections.

II. Objection to Claims

Claims 5, 13, 21, 29, 37, and 46 were objected to as being dependent upon a rejected base claim, but would be allowable if rewritten in independent form including all of the limitations of the base claim and any intervening claims. Applicants have amended claims 5, 13, 21, 29, 37,


and 46 into independent form. Accordingly, Applicants submit that this objection has been obviated, and respectfully request its withdrawal.

III. Conclusion

In view of the above amendments and remarks, Applicants submit that all claims are clearly allowable over the cited prior art, and respectfully request early and favorable notification to that effect.

Respectfully submitted,

Dated: June 6, 2005

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